

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 01348 071842Z

71

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SCI-06 INT-08 EB-11 EPA-04 CEQ-02

IO-13 OEP-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

RSR-01 (ADP) W

----- 028890

R 071150Z AUG 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

SECSTATE WASHDC 2196

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1348

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WB, GE, GW

SUBJECT: SENAT-GDR NEGOTIATIONS: WATER CONSERVATION

REF: BERLIN 1297; STATE 145037

1. SUMMARY: SENAT OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED TO MISSION THAT GDR PROPOSAL FOR WATER CONSERVATION TALKS AND DRAFT SENAT REPLY CONTAIN NOTHING OF SUBSTANTIVE URGENCY AND THAT SENAT DRAFT APPEARS FORTHCOMING ONLY BECAUSE OF FRG POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. SENAT WOULD PREFER TO TURN DOWN GDR REQUEST FOR WATER TALKS AND HAS DRAFTED PROPOSED REPLY IN MANNER DESIGNED TO FRUSTRATE ASSUMED GDR INTENTION TO ENGAGE SENAT IN ENVIRONMENTAL TALKS BEFORE FRG AND GDR COMMENCE SIMILAR TALKS. MISSION IS INCLINED TO QUESTION WHETHER PRESENT DRAFT WOULD ACCOMPLISH THIS PURPOSE. ACTION REQUESTED: USBER SUGGESTS EMBASSY ASCERTAIN WHETHER FRG DESIRES THAT SENAT IN FACT ENTER INTO EARLY NEGOTIATIONS WITH GDR ON WATER ENVIRONMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. SENAT OFFICIAL CONCERNED WITH WATER CONSERVATION TALKS TOLD MISSION AUGUST 1 THAT SENAT WOULD PREFER NOT TO  
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 01348 071842Z

NEGOTIATE WITH GDR AT ALL ON WATER ENVIRONMENTAL QUES-

TIONS BUT THAT FRG DOES NOT WANT SENAT TO MAKE FLATLY NEGATIVE  
REPLY TO GDR PROPOSAL. SENAT HAS ACCORDINGLY DRAFTED  
PROPOSED RESPONSE WITH INTENT TO MAKING IT NEGATIVE IN  
FACT WHILE FAIRLY POSITIVE IN TONE. SENAT REASONING IS  
BASED ON FACT THAT GDR SUGGESTED AS SUBJECT OF NEGOTIA-  
TION "WASSERWIRTSCHAFT", A GENERAL TERM EMBODYING NAVIGA-  
TION AS WELL AS ENVIRONMENT. SENAT OPINES THAT SINCE  
ITS DRAFT IS NAVIGATION-ORIENTED, IT IS TANTAMOUNT TO  
NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO GDR ENVIRONMENT PROPOSAL AND WILL  
BE UNACCEPTABLE TO LATTER. SENAT'S NEGATIVE ATTITUDE  
TOWARD WATER ENVIRONMENT TALKS IS BASED ON VIEW THAT  
GDR WANTS TO ENGAGE SENAT IN SUCH TALKS PRIOR  
TO FRG-GDR NEGOTIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUESTIONS SO AS TO BE ABLE TO ARGUE THAT FRG REPRESENTATION  
OF BERLIN IN LATTER IS NOT NECESSARY.

3. SPECIFIC PROBLEM OF POLLUTANTS ENTERING GDR FROM  
WEST BERLIN VIA TELTOW CANAL, MENTIONED IN GDR JUNE 20  
LETTER, WAS SERIOUSLY ADDRESSED BY SENAT IN 1968, BECAUSE  
POLLUTANTS FLOWING THROUGH WEST BERLIN ORIGINATE IN  
GDR AND PROBLEM WAS BEGINNING TO ASSUME WORRISOME  
PROPORTIONS AT THAT TIME. HOWEVER, GDR SHOWED NO  
INTEREST IN SUBJECT BETWEEN 1968 AND 1973.

4. SENAT NOTES THAT OPENING WEST END OF TELTOW CANAL  
WAS ONLY WATER PROJECT ORIGINALLY CONTEMPLATED FOR SENAT-  
GDR NEGOTIATION UNDER "COMMUNICATIONS" IN QA. PROJECTS  
PROPOSED IN SENAT DRAFT INCLUDE SOME OF WORK NECESSARY  
FOR OPENING CANAL, BUT SENAT ARGUES, SOMEWHAT INCON-  
SISTENTLY, THAT SPECIFIC MENTION OF OPENING CANAL WAS  
OMITTED BECAUSE GDR WOULD NOT NOW AGREE TO TALKS ON THIS  
SUBJECT. SENAT PLANS TO WITHHOLD SIGNATURE TO PENDING  
SPANDAU LOCK AGREEMENT UNTIL GDR AGREES TO TALKS ON  
OPENING CANAL, BUT LOCK AGREEMENT IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE  
READY FOR SIGNATURE UNTIL OCTOBER.

5. COMMENT: WE ARE INCLINED TO QUESTION WHETHER GDR  
WOULD FIND SENAT'S REPLY AS NEGATIVE AS SENAT  
SUGGESTS IT IS. SENAT LIST INCLUDES AT LEAST ONE  
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PAGE 03 BERLIN 01348 071842Z

ENVIRONMENT-ORIENTED PROJECT (OIL POLLUTION); MOREOVER,  
THERE SEEMS TO BE NO INTRINSIC REASON WHY GDR WOULD  
OBJECT TO AGENDA WHICH FOCUSED ON RELATIVELY UNIMPORTANT  
NAVIGATION PROJECTS SO LONG AS FORMAT OF NEGOTIATIONS  
WAS TO GDR'S LIKING, ESPECIALLY SINCE DREDGING FOR NAVIGATION  
WOULD ALSO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENT. USING SENAT'S OWN LOGIC,  
GDR MIGHT BE MOVED PRIMARILY BY DESIRE  
TO HAVE SOMETHING ON ENVIRONMENT UNDERWAY WITH SENAT

BEFORE FRG-GDR ENVIRONMENT NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN.

6. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF EMBASSY  
COULD ASCERTAIN WHETHER FRG IS PRIMARILY CONCERNED  
ABOUT COSMETICS OF WHAT IS INTENDED TO BE NEGATIVE  
SENAT REPLY TO GDR OR WHETHER IT REALLY DESIRES  
THAT EARLY SENAT-GDR TALKS TAKE PLACE ON BASIS OF PROPOSED  
SENAT REPLY.KLEIN

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